Cloud Direct®

Data Centre Modernisation

Growing IT with your business

Every growing business reaches a crossroads with IT. There comes a point where adding to what you have is no longer possible. Hardware refreshes or extending your data centre environment require considerable investment as well as in-house resource and expertise to achieve the result you need.

Now there is another option: Microsoft Azure. Azure is a scalable solution that allows you to extend your infrastructure in the cloud at any time. It's a service where you pay monthly, based on usage, so you can avoid large up-front costs and control expenditure more easily.

With Azure, there's no limit to what you can achieve. It has none of the restrictions of traditional data centres such as lack of rack space, switches, servers etc. and means that you can free up valuable space, consolidate data centre usage and reduce IT management.

How to move to Azure and get the most from it

Cloud Direct's Data Centre Modernisation service gives you access to the expertise you need to move to Azure safely and successfully. Our consultants will assess and plan your migration. Through workshops, we'll audit your IT environment, provide a cost analysis comparing your current set up with a hosted Azure solution, develop a business case and a migration timeline.

We can even manage the migration on your behalf, providing a complete project management service that builds your new Azure environment with thorough testing before and after the move.

As ongoing management of your Azure estate is critical to achieving cost and efficiency savings, we'll continue to identify areas for improvement and optimisation. You'll also have access to the My Azure dashboard, through our customer portal PROVIDE™, for real-time visibility of your Azure costs. You can view spend against individual components, even down to each virtual machine, and monthly cost forecasts based on current usage.

"We knew Microsoft could give us the security levels we require, and that we could leave the brunt of the IT work to the professionals at Cloud Direct, letting us get on with servicing our clients."

Stewart Martin, Partner, Edmund Carr

Planning your move to Azure

Cloud Direct consultants will guide you through a Planning and Assessment process, focussing on three core areas:

Qualification

We'll look at your entire data centre environment to understand your needs, compliance requirements and strategy to develop a plan and business case that fits your current and future objectives.

Discovery workshop

We will ask you to provide detailed information about your IT environment including your current contracts and costs. Our consultants will use this information to build a comprehensive cost analysis, business case and migration strategy.

To help collate the information needed, we will provide you with the tools to capture the full specification and usage of each server and virtual machine.

The Discovery workshop is structured around the following topics:

▼ **Business scope**
Understanding your business drivers, scope, timeframes, priority and conflicts with other areas.

▼ **Contracts and compliance**
Looking at the implications of changing the underlying service provider or location of the solution to hyper-scale cloud platforms.

▼ **Technical and security**
Taking a high-level view of the current environment and the scope of the modernisation, including consolidation and migration to Azure.

▼ **People and skills**
Assessing who in your business will be involved at a technical and operational management level.

▼ **Operational Management**
Covering the operational and support aspects of the modernisation to Azure.

Migration strategy planning

Finally, our Azure consultants will present a business case and migration strategy. They will include the findings from the cost analysis, including your Azure spend, confirmation of the virtual machine resources needed and a detailed migration plan.

Why choose us?

As an Azure Expert MSP, Cloud Direct have worked with organisations to successfully migrate to the cloud. Microsoft has recognised just 32 partners globally that meet the standards to be an Azure Expert MSP. And we're proud to be one of them.

We're also a gold Microsoft Cloud Solution Partner (CSP), having achieved key certifications and competencies, including Gold Cloud Platform and Gold Data Centre, that enable us to provide expert advice about Microsoft Cloud technologies.

Our experience of moving customers, and our own infrastructure, to Azure from private data centres means that we understand the processes and pitfalls to avoid. Plus, we have developed our own My Azure dashboard to help you track spend and manage budgets by predicting your Azure costs.

About Cloud Direct

Cloud Direct helps ambitious organisations adopt Microsoft cloud. Our clients know that the right technology can free them to grow – offering increased security, productivity and agility. But they also know caution. So, our job is to make their cloud journey safe and affordable.

Since 2003, Cloud Direct has helped 4,000 organisations move their IT to the cloud. We are a direct gold Microsoft cloud services provider (CSP) partner. We hold ISO 27001:2013 (for security) and ISO 20000 (for service). At 75% our Net Promoter Score is world-class, and we provide 24/7 support to ensure continual service delivery.

Contact Cloud Direct

To find out more about how we can help your business, contact us on:

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